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## **IOWA DEPT. OF EDUCATION RELEASES NCLB REPORT CARD** ***Students improve in six out of eight achievement indicators;*** ***12 "Schools in Need of Assistance" listed;*** ***all teachers "highly qualified"***

(DES MOINES, IOWA) — A state report card released today by the Iowa Department of Education today shows that students improved in six out of eight indicators of student success, and 12 schools were listed as Schools in Need of Assistance (SINA). It also shows that all Iowa teachers have the credentials to be considered "highly qualified." The report card, which must be published annually, is a new reporting requirement of the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. It is separate from the state's annual Condition of Education report, which is more comprehensive and will continue to be published each fall.

The six indicators that showed improvement were 4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade math, 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading, graduation rates and average daily attendance. As first reported last week during a preliminary announcement, the two areas that didn't improve were 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade reading.

"Districts have implemented successful interventions to improve literacy at the younger grades, so the gradual improvements there are expected," said Ted Stilwill, director of the Iowa Department of Education. "Now we will expand our focus and set priorities to address the achievement levels in middle and high school."

Iowa's continuous improvement efforts for all schools, which began in the late 1990s with the creation of Annual Progress Reports and Comprehensive School Improvement Plans from each district, have contributed to the steady gains and low number of SINA schools. A school receives the federal SINA designation when it doesn't make its Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) goals for student achievement for two years, or if less than 95% of students participate in assessments.

"Schools in need of assistance already have begun to receive aid and support from either their district, Area Education Agency, or the state," Stilwill said. "When those interventions have been given time to work, achievement will improve accordingly."

For instance, Stilwill said, 18 of the schools on last year's list of 26 are not on the list this year. Eight from last year remained on the list this year, and four schools are new to the list. One school from last year's SINA list was reorganized within the district and because of the different student population has been removed.

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However, Stilwill noted, Iowa, as well as many other states, is likely to see the SINA list increase over the next several years as new achievement criteria is applied to student subgroups, particularly criteria demanding that all student groups demonstrate improvement. NCLB requires a school district that misses the improvement criteria for even one subgroup to be placed on the SINA list. Once a school is listed as a SINA, it must show it has met its annual goals for two consecutive years before it can be removed from the list.

“As with any accountability, it will be important for us to look beyond the numbers and explore the reasons for improving and declining achievement,” Stilwill said. “Then we can follow-up with appropriate teacher supports and student interventions.”

### 2003 Schools in Need of Assistance (SINA) in Iowa

DISTRICT	SCHOOL	SUBJECT	SANCTIONS
Central Decatur	Decatur Elementary	Math	Choice
Davenport	Buchanan Elementary	Math, Reading	Choice
	Fillmore Elementary	Math	Choice
	Hayes Elementary	Math, Reading	Choice, Supplemental Services
	Jefferson Elementary	Reading	Choice, Supplemental Services
	Madison Elementary	Reading and Participation	Choice, Supplemental Services
Des Moines	Moulton Elementary	Math	Choice
Midland	Lost Nation Middle	Math	Choice
North Cedar	Lowden Elementary	Math	Choice
Oskaloosa	Lincoln Elementary	Math	Choice
Waterloo	Central Middle	Math, Participation	Choice
	Logan Middle	Reading, Participation	Choice, Supplemental Services, District Intervention

#### Explanation:

This year, only schools receiving Title I funds are identified as SINA. (A Title I school is a school that receives federal funds to aid students in poverty.) In future years, all public schools can be identified. Most of the identified schools are elementary schools because very few middle and high schools offer Title I services.

District: School district where SINA school is located.

School: Buildings within each district make the SINA list if a) they didn't have at least 95% of students participate in Iowa Tests of Basic Skills or Iowa Tests of Educational Development, or an alternate assessments; b) the school didn't reach its AYP goal for two consecutive years in either reading or math for grades 4, 8 and 11.

Subject: The category that needs assistance: Reading, math, or number of students participating in assessments.

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- Sanction: Federal sanctions apply to SINA schools based on how long they have been on the SINA list. Schools must show two consecutive years of improvement to be removed from the list.
- The first year they are on the list, schools must offer public school choice to their parents, meaning they must notify parents that they can choose to attend a non-SINA school within the district.
  - The second year they are on the list because of not meeting AYP goals, schools must offer choice plus supplemental services to students. Iowa districts can choose from nine state-approved supplemental service providers who offer services such as tutoring or after-school interventions.
  - The third year they are on the list, schools must offer choice plus supplemental services, and the district must submit a corrective action plan to the state.

### **2003 SINA summary**

- 12 schools on the list, compared to 26 last year.
- Of the 12 identified this year, eight are holdovers from last year (Central Decatur Elementary; Davenport Buchanan, Hayes, Jefferson and Madison; North Cedar Lowden; Oskaloosa Lincoln; and Waterloo Logan Middle); four are new to the list (Davenport Fillmore; Des Moines Moulton; Midland Lost Nation Middle; and Waterloo Central Middle).
- Of last year's 26 schools, 18 met AYP for two consecutive years, and so were removed (Alden Elementary; Bennett Elementary; Cedar Falls North Cedar; College Prairie View; Davenport Washington; Des Moines Longfellow; Dubuque Audubon; Eldora-New Providence Elementary; Fairfield Washington; Iowa City Grant Wood; Keokuk Lincoln; Malvern Chantry; Missouri Valley Elementary; Muscatine Franklin and Jefferson; South Page Elementary; Waterloo Roosevelt;); one consolidated with another school (Oelwein Parkside).

### **All Iowa teachers "highly qualified"**

In addition to student achievement status, states also must include teacher quality data in the annual report card to assure that all students, including those in high-poverty schools, have access to high quality teachers. Because Iowa requires that all teachers hold a valid teaching license and are properly assigned and endorsed to teach in the academic areas as defined by NCLB, all teachers meet the federal definition of highly qualified teacher.

"One of the reasons Iowa is considered to have high quality education is because we have rigorous teacher preparation and licensure, as well as high teacher standards," said Judy Jeffrey, administrator of the Division of Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education in Iowa. Mandatory mentoring and induction for first-year teachers also helps ensure teachers are highly qualified, she said.

The complete NCLB report card can be found on the Iowa Department of Education website at [www.state.ia.us/educate](http://www.state.ia.us/educate).

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